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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

05/31/2008

As per the Examiner's request, Applicant is providing herewith a substitute specification in both Marked-up and Clean versions. The following are the amendments appearing in the substitute specification:

The paragraph on page 1, lines 2-6, has been replaced with the following paragraph:

Benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) is claimed to U.S. patent 6,800,728, patent application No.: 09/815,978, filed March 22, 2001 entitled "HYDRAZINE-BASED AND CARBONYL-BASED BIFUNCTIONAL CROSSLINKING REAGENTS" which claims priority to U.S. provisional patent application No. 60/191,186, filed March 22, 2000, to Schwartz, entitled "NOVEL HYDRAZINE-BASED AND CARBONYL-BASED BIFUNCTIONAL CROSSLINKING REAGENTS." The disclosures of the above-referenced applications are incorporated herein in their entirety.

The paragraph on page 1, lines 11-17, has been replaced with the following paragraph:

Methods to crosslink biomolecules such as proteins, oligonucleotides and carbohydrates to each other, to radioactive and non-radioactive metal chelates, to drugs and to surfaces [[has]] have allowed development of both in vitro and in vivo diagnostic assays as well as in vivo therapies. A wide variety of methods have been developed and reviewed (Greg T. Hermanson, Bioconjugate Techniques, Academic Press).

The paragraph on page 4, lines 6 through 22, has been replaced with the following paragraph:

[[R¹¹]], R¹⁰, R¹², R¹³, R¹⁴, R¹⁵, R¹⁶, R¹⁷, R¹⁸, R¹⁹ and R²⁰ can be substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from Z, wherein Z is selected from alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, hydroxy, S(O)_nR³⁰, NR³⁰R³¹, COOR³⁰, COR³⁰, CONR³⁰R³¹, OC(O)NR³⁰R³¹, N(R³⁰)C(O)R³¹, alkoxy, aryloxy, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryloxy, heterocyclyloxy, aralkyl, aralkenyl, aralkynyl, heteroaralkyl, heteroaralkenyl,